



TO THE BAG

FOUL WEATHER, WAYFAIRNESS

To the *Bag*:

I feel sure you will get many letters like this this one.

I offer to pay for one subscription and forward it to one former Kansas subscriber. My heart goes out to any former subscriber facing a Kansas winter without the *Green Bag*.

Very truly yours,
George Daly
Athens, GA

Editors' note: See 23 Green Bag 2. We thank Mr. Daly for his kind words.

NOBILITY AT THE DINNER TABLE

To the *Bag*:

The Nobility Clauses by Manley W. Roberts¹ brought to mind a dinner with Warner Gardner:

Before I was Warner Gardner's son-in-law, and while dating his elder daughter Hannah, I was a solo practitioner in West Chester, PA, and a sometime adjunct at the local university. I taught a course in constitutional

¹ *Editors' note:* The Roberts article first appeared in the *Journal of Attenuated Subtleties* in 1982, and then reappeared in 2019 when we reprinted the entire run of the original *JAS* in volume 9 of *The Journal of Law: A Periodical Laboratory of Legal Scholarship*. See journaloflaw.us.

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law for undergraduates, which I found considerably more interesting than did most of my students.

As you would expect, we had occasional dinners with Warner and his wife, Rita. We were sometimes joined by whatever other grown children were in the neighborhood in Washington, DC. Dinners with Warner were often an intellectual challenge, so that on occasion the next generation had more than sufficient libations to make it through the meal.

Warner could be an intimidating presence, his erudition and obvious superior intellect would leave some cowering. As I was new to the experience, I hadn't learned that yet.

Dinner conversations were not likely to drift into sports, although Rita was a great football fan. The discussions infrequently went into politics, even though Warner was a long time player in Washington politics. They most often were discussions of arcane tid-bits, or little-known legal outcomes from long forgotten cases.

So, one evening I was at the dinner table, and casually mentioned: *I wonder why the drafters of the Constitution put the Nobility Clauses in two sections of the Constitution.* It seemed to me that it would have been much more efficient if one clause covered the prohibition on knighthoods to the federal government and the similar prohibition to state governments.

Warner looked at me, clearly about to challenge my assertion that there were two sections dealing with essentially the same matter. He waited a few seconds, then excused himself from the table. He returned a couple of minutes later, obviously after having gone to examine a copy of the Constitution, and said not a word. But from that moment on, I was his favorite in-law.

Other similar discussions involved the exact date of the change from “*These United States*” to “*The United States*,” a topic well covered by the *Green Bag*.

Yours,
Patrick C. O'Donnell
West Chester, PA

